



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

UK, US, AUSTRALIAN & CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT BAND TOGETHER TO TARGET ONLINE CHILD EXPLOITATION

International law enforcement partnership launches new website for reporting, resources

LONDON — Law enforcement and technology industry officials in the UK unveiled today a new international website created by the Virtual Global Task Force, a partnership lead by the UK National Crime Squad (NCS) that includes NCS, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Australian High Tech Crime Centre, and Interpol.

The site, at www.virtualglobaltaskforce.com, includes information on how to report suspected child exploitation in the UK, US, Canada and Australia; as well as related safety and resource information from partner organizations such as the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children in the United States.

Jim Gamble, Deputy Director General of the UK's National Crime Squad, and Chair of the Virtual Global Taskforce, said, "The Virtual Global Taskforce is a unique partnership in the history of law enforcement. Internet-users access a worldwide service so we must tackle abuse from a worldwide perspective. Strategic partnerships such as this are vital to our success."

ICE's participation in the Virtual Global Task Force is part of Operation Predator, a Department of Homeland Security initiative to protect children from criminal alien sex offenders, child sex tourists, Internet child pornographers, and human traffickers. Since Operation Predator began in July 2003, more than 4,800 individuals have been arrested nationwide. Foreign law enforcement, acting on ICE leads, have arrested more than 860 individuals.

Additional information about Operation Predator is available on the Web at www.ice.gov.

ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.